



GRIPPING TALES OF SUSPENSE!

NO 105
FEB.

ADVENTURES INTO THE

UNKNOWN

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CODE



AUTHORITY

10¢

ON THE SURFACE OF
THE MOON, AN
AMAZING STORY
UNFOLDS! IT'S...
**"LAST of the
TREE PEOPLE!"**

MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

THAT
STRANGE TREE
--IT'S **CALLING**
TO US!

OLDEN
GUTHRIE

**WEB COMIC
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Tiny, TRANSISTOR RADIO



Complete
with batteries
and HI-FI earphone.

Lightweight... compact... no larger than a package of cigarettes! You'll marvel at its full rich tone... you'll be amazed at its wide reception of stations, including CONELRAD broadcasts for Civilian Defense and other emergencies... you'll be delighted at the long life of its two low cost batteries! Right in the palm of your hand... is a wonderful world of sound from a tiny transistor radio weighing but 3 ounces!

molded of sturdy long-life plastic in color combination... brilliantly gift packageu PRICE: \$7.95

WORLD'S SMALLEST RADIO!

For only \$4.95 you can own this newest midget-size Hearver Radio that fits shirt pocket or purse. No plug-in, no batteries, no tube replacements... no expense. Self-powered diode rectifier replaces tubes. Listen at work, play, sporting events, in bed. Hearing-aid type speaker lets you listen in private without disturbing others. Complete with aerial, ready to use. Guaranteed or money back! Only \$4.95, postage paid.

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NEW! 250 POWER TELESCOPE LENS KIT
Lens Are Completely Finished and Polished. See Craters on Moon! Rings of Saturn! Moons of Jupiter! Double Stars! Observe the Man-Made Satellites! Amazing magnification of distant objects. Full 250 Power Magnifies 62,500 times Areal. Complete lens kit consists of 80-inch focal length ground & polished 50 mm. objective lens, eyepiece lenses for 50-100-150-200-250 power magnification, plus all lens fittings. Easy to make from step by step instructions. (Tripod & mount not included) No. 6004A. 250-Power Lens Kit. Price Postpaid \$3.50.

NEW RAM JET ENGINE BURNS GASOLINE!

JET ENGINE
For boats, cars, plane models. No moving parts; easy to start; runs on gasoline. Powerful continual thrust. About 6-in. long; adaptable to most models. Easy starting. Complete. No. 7411. Postpaid, Only \$1.50.



FASCINATING ANT HOUSE — ONLY \$2.98
busy army of worker ants digging tunnels... building rooms... carrying their loads to the top of the hill. An ant's entire world created while you watch! See the feeder ants storing away supplies for the rest of the colony... the nursemaids caring for the ant babies... an education in work and patience as well as nature study, seen through the clear plastic, unbreakable walls of this unusual ant house. Actually a "living TV screen" that keeps the kids interested for hours. Convenient 5"x7" size, only \$2.98 including stand, soil and sandbar.

ADULT LIFE-LIKE RUBBER MASKS—"COME TO LIFE" WHEN WORN
Moulded of thin latex rubber, finished to appear amazingly realistic. MASK REFLECTS YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS—COMES TO LIFE—EAT, DRINK, SMOKE and TALK WITH THEM ON. Head Mask fits over entire head, down to neck.

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Mad Monster Face Mask \$1.00
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The girls' favorite. Attractive long curls in beautiful blonde or brunette style. How do you look with blonde hair? Beautiful modern style in glorious curls. No. 4818. Blonde. Price \$2.95. No. 4818A. Brown. Price \$2.95.

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Semi-trimmed adult size wig, excellent for disguises or character parts. Has part on top, neatly combed in place, but untrimmed. Looks, feels like real hair. Trim to suit. Lined. Fits man or teen age boy. No. 4319. Blonde \$2.50. No. 4319A. Brown \$2.50. No. 4319B. Black \$2.50. No. 4319C. Red \$2.50.

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Sings, laugh, talk, crack jokes from another room and your voice will be reproduced through the radio. Imitate "Bob Hope" or "Bing Crosby". Excellent training in elocution or broadcast announcing—or for "Amateur Hour" practice! Special cut-out button allows you to switch from home broadcasting to regular radio reception. Operates on most standard radios. Handsome enameled metal with long cord. Quickly attached to radio. About 4-in. high. No. 6562. ELECTRIC RADIO MIKE. Table Model. Price Postpaid \$1.50. No. 6599. DeLUXE HAND MODEL RADIO MIKE. Price Postpaid \$1.95.

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Electric Shocking Hand Shaker
High voltage coil delivers powerful shock. Operates from penlight cell. All concealed in compact, attractive plastic case that fits hand, out of sight. Adjustable. Fool friends with terrific grip. No. 2228. Complete. \$2.98.

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Fool—it's gone! Where? How? No gadgets; no gimmicks; no sleight; no practice. Disappears and reappears. Do it at once. Fool 'em right under their noses, again & again! No. 3107. Complete, Postpaid 20c.

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Looks & runs like real outboard. Fits almost any boat. Powerful. Nearly 5-inches high. Operated from flashlight batteries. Goes straight or turns. Strong metal construction, aluminum finish. With prop. No. 6429. Postpaid, Only \$1.98. Add 10c to All Orders Under \$1.00.

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Signal turns. Attractive white enamel finish. Handlebar switch. Easily mounted on rear fender. Uses 2 standard batteries. Not supplied. No. 4787. Postpaid \$3.65.

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Operates on 1 1/2 to 3 volts (any flashlight cell) with speed up to 6000 r.p.m. Nickel plated case, alnico permanent magnet, phosphor bronze brushes. 1.2 oz. 1x1 1/4x1 1/4 in. No. 4828. Price Postpaid \$5c.

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Joke or thrill. On or off exhaust pipe in seconds. Terrific noisemaker. No. 4828. Price Postpaid \$5c.

GIANT BALLOONS
Fraction of original cost. Government surplus. New. Never used. Great fun. Genuine neoprene rubber. No. 3307. 6-Foot Balloons. 75c. No. 3308. 10-Foot Balloons. \$1.50. (20-ft. around). Each.

CHAMELEON 75c
Watch It Change Color!
Wear On Your Lapel
Shipped Direct From Animal Farm; Allow 15 to 20 Days Delivery Time
factory answer. The change in color takes but a few minutes and you can watch the change. Almost 4-inches long. Catches flies and insects for food. Whenever a fly comes within range, its long tongue shoots out and catches it. Better still, send \$1.25 for a pair and watch the fun. No. 87983. LIVE CHAMELEON. (Send \$1.25 for pair). Price Each, Postpaid \$75c. No. 5303. CHAMELEON FOOD. (Live Meal Worms). Per Package \$2.50. No. 4302. Pin Clamp & Cord for Wearing Live Chameleons on Your Lapel or Sweater. Price \$1.00. No. 1437. Book on How to Care for Chameleons & 100 Other Pets. Price \$1.50.

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ADD 10c SERVICE CHARGE ON ALL ORDERS LESS THAN \$1.00
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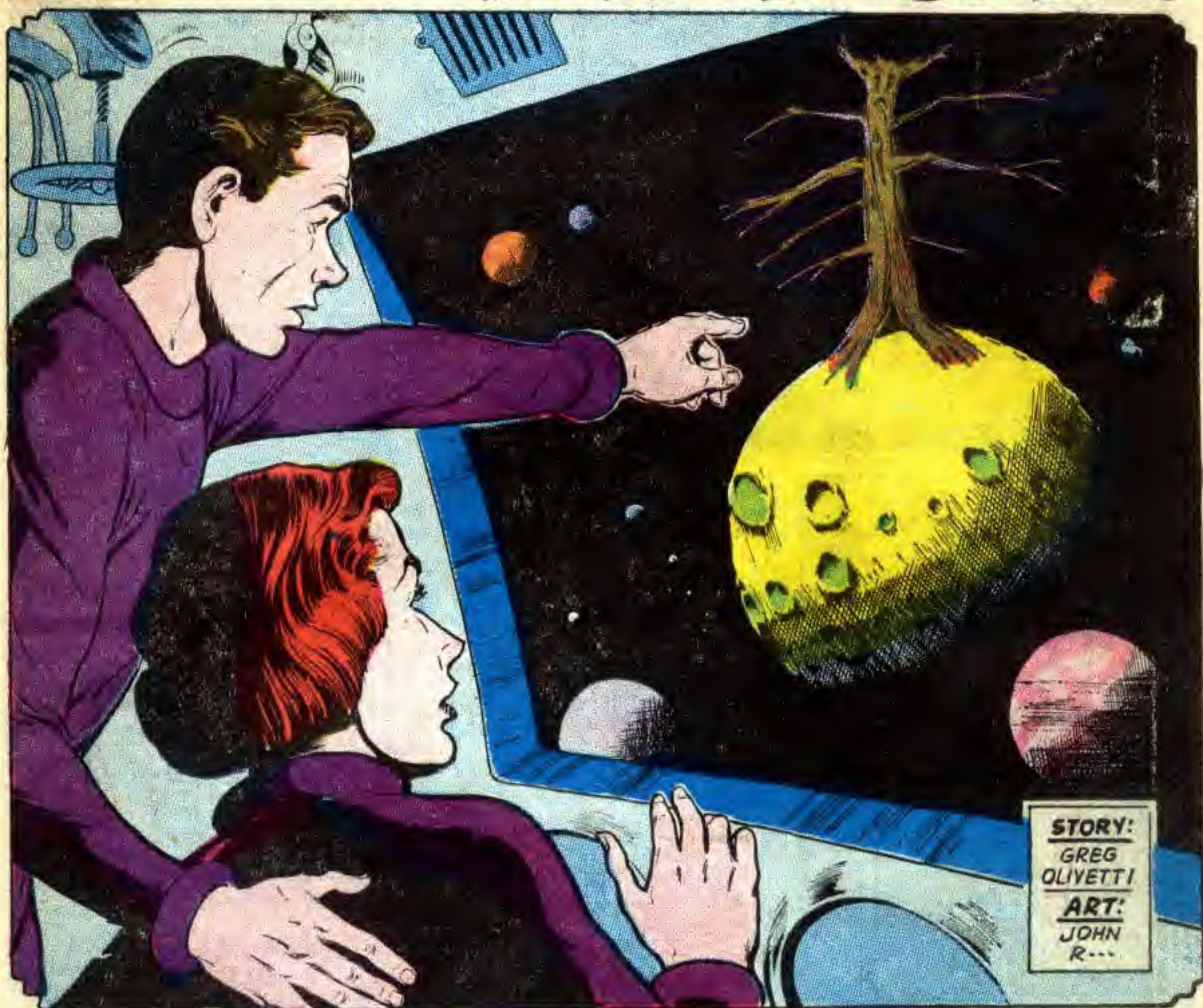
Ugly BLACKHEADS OUT IN SECONDS
VACUTEX
Remove blackheads! Be good looking! Vacutex removes blackheads in seconds cleanly. Safe, healthy. No. 4641. Postpaid \$1.00. CLEAR SKIN MAKES ANYONE BEAUTIFUL.

Skull Ring
Sparkling red stones in eyes. Silver color. 59c.

Wolf Ring
Big wolf head, red tongue. Silver finish. \$1.50. Sterling Silver \$1.98.

There are strange things in this world -- and even stranger *OUT* of it! That's what **DON BRADLEY** discovered when he headed out into space--only to discover the--

LAST *of the* TREE PEOPLE!



STORY:
GREG
OLIVETTI
ART:
JOHN
R...

MET OUR HERO -- **DON** -- ON THE DAY OF HIS GRADUATION AS A **DOCTOR OF BOTANY** --

--AND THE GREAT DAYS OF INDIVIDUAL GLORY IN SCIENCE, UNFORTUNATELY, ARE GONE! UNLESS, THAT IS, YOU HIT ON SOME SPECTACULAR SPECIALTY THAT CAN WIN YOU FAME!

HUH! WHAT EVER COULD BE SPECTACULAR ABOUT BOTANY?

NO, HE FOUND NOTHING SPECTACULAR! INSTEAD, HE BECAME A RESEARCH BOTANIST AT THE PLANT LIFE FOUNDATION -- WHERE EACH DAY, HE CONDUCTED ENDLESS ROUTINE TESTS --

THIS STUFF
BORES ME.
SILLY!



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FINALLY, IN DESPERATION, HE VISITED THE HEAD OF THE FOUNDATION, OLD PROFESSOR LEWIS, WHO KNEW MORE ABOUT PLANTS THAN ANY OTHER MAN--

THAT'S RIGHT, SIR--I'M BORED! I WAS HOPING THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING OFF THE BEATEN PATH IN BOTANY THAT YOU COULD SUGGEST FOR ME--

YOU YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPERS MAKE ME TIRED--YOU EXPECT TO BE ENTERTAINED IN YOUR WORK! YOU KNEW WHAT BOTANY WAS WHEN YOU WENT IN FOR IT, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, IT'S NO DIFFERENT ANYWHERE ON EARTH!



IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO MAKE YOUR NAME FAMOUS, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO BEYOND THE EARTH! ONCE IN A WHILE, A METEOR COMES DOWN INTO OUR ATMOSPHERE WITH TRACES OF STRANGE PLANT LIFE--SO WHY NOT MOVE RIGHT OFF INTO SPACE AND BECOME A BIG SHOT!



WISE GUY! OH, IF I COULD ONLY SHOW HIM, SHOW HIM--IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY--



BUT THERE WAS A WAY--AND IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT VERY NIGHT--

WELL, I'LL BE--!



THE ASTONISHING NEWS WAS EVERYWHERE--ON RADIO--TELEVISION--

HERE SHE IS, FOLKS! IT SEEMS AMERICA'S BEEN PLAYING POSSUM, SENDING UP LITTLE GRAPEFRUIT MISSILES AND LULLING RUSSIA INTO A SENSE OF FALSE SECURITY, WHILE WE SPED OUR GIANT CRASH PROJECT! ON THE ROCKET TRIP WILL BE PHYSICISTS, GEOLOGISTS, BIOLOGISTS--



EVERY KIND OF SCIENTIST--EXCEPT A BOTANIST! PROFESSOR LEWIS TOLD ME TO GO OUTSIDE THE EARTH IF I WANTED TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF!--WELL,

HERE'S MY CHANCE!



HE HAD TO APPLY TO THE PROJECT'S DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND WAIT HIS TURN--

LEONA CARR, YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS? VERY WELL, MISS CARR--AS A REPORTER, YOU'RE COMPETENT TO KEEP THE LOG OF OUR EXPEDITION AND HANDLE ALL PRESS RELEASES! WE'LL TAKE YOU ALONG!

OH, GOSH--THANKS!



BUT WHEN DON WAS INTERVIEWED --

OF COURSE I'M TURNING YOU DOWN! IT'S CRAZY! AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THERE JUST ISN'T ANY VEGETATION ON THE MOON -- WHAT WOULD WE NEED A **BOTANIST** FOR?

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU'D TAKE ALONG A WORTHLESS NEWSPAPER GIRL -- AND LEAVE A SCIENTIST LIKE *ME* BEHIND?



I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WORTHLESS NEWSPAPER GIRL? WHY, I'D MEAN MORE TO THIS EXPEDITION THAN YOU COULD ANY DAY IN THE WEEK!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY! I COULD PLAY THE PIANO AND SING -- AND I CAN **DO** IT, TOO -- AND BE MORE VALUABLE THAN YOU EVEN IF I *WASN'T* A SCIENTIST!



WAIT A MINUTE -- YOU MAY **HAVE** SOMETHING THERE! THE MORALE OF EXPEDITION MEMBERS COULD BENEFIT FROM ENTERTAINMENT OF THAT SORT! TELL YOU WHAT -- YOU CAN COME ALONG AS OUR **BOTANIST** AS LONG AS IT'S UNDERSTOOD THAT PRIMARILY, YOU'RE OUR **ENTERTAINER!**



IT WAS WORTHWHILE GOING ON ANY TERMS! AND SO -- AS THE TIME ARRIVED FOR THE DEPARTURE --

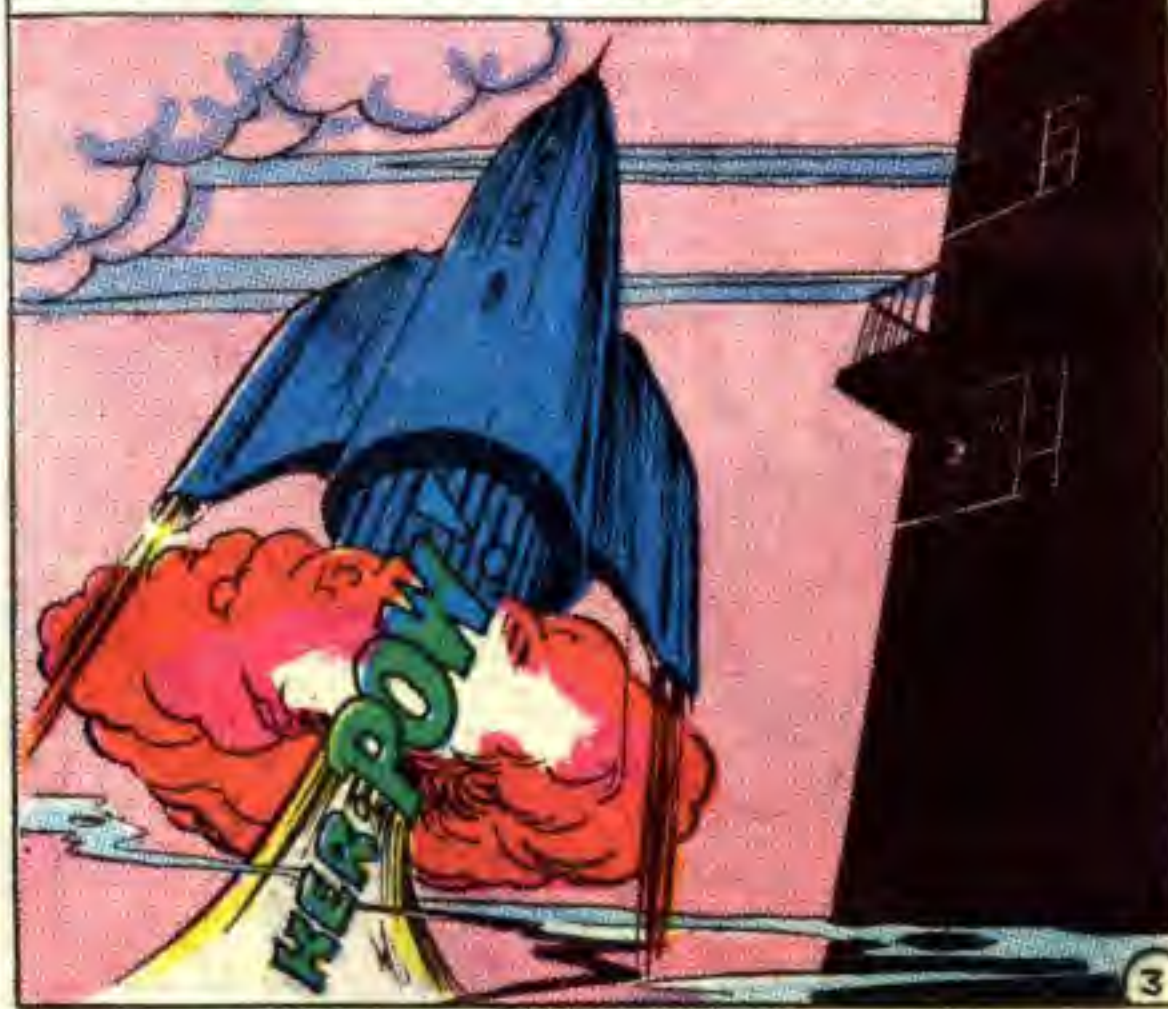


NOW, NOW, LITTLE MAN, THEY'RE JUST STRAPPING YOU IN FOR THE BLAST-OFF! YOU'RE **SCARED**, AREN'T YOU?

WHO, M-ME? NOT ONE LITTLE LEAST B-BIT!



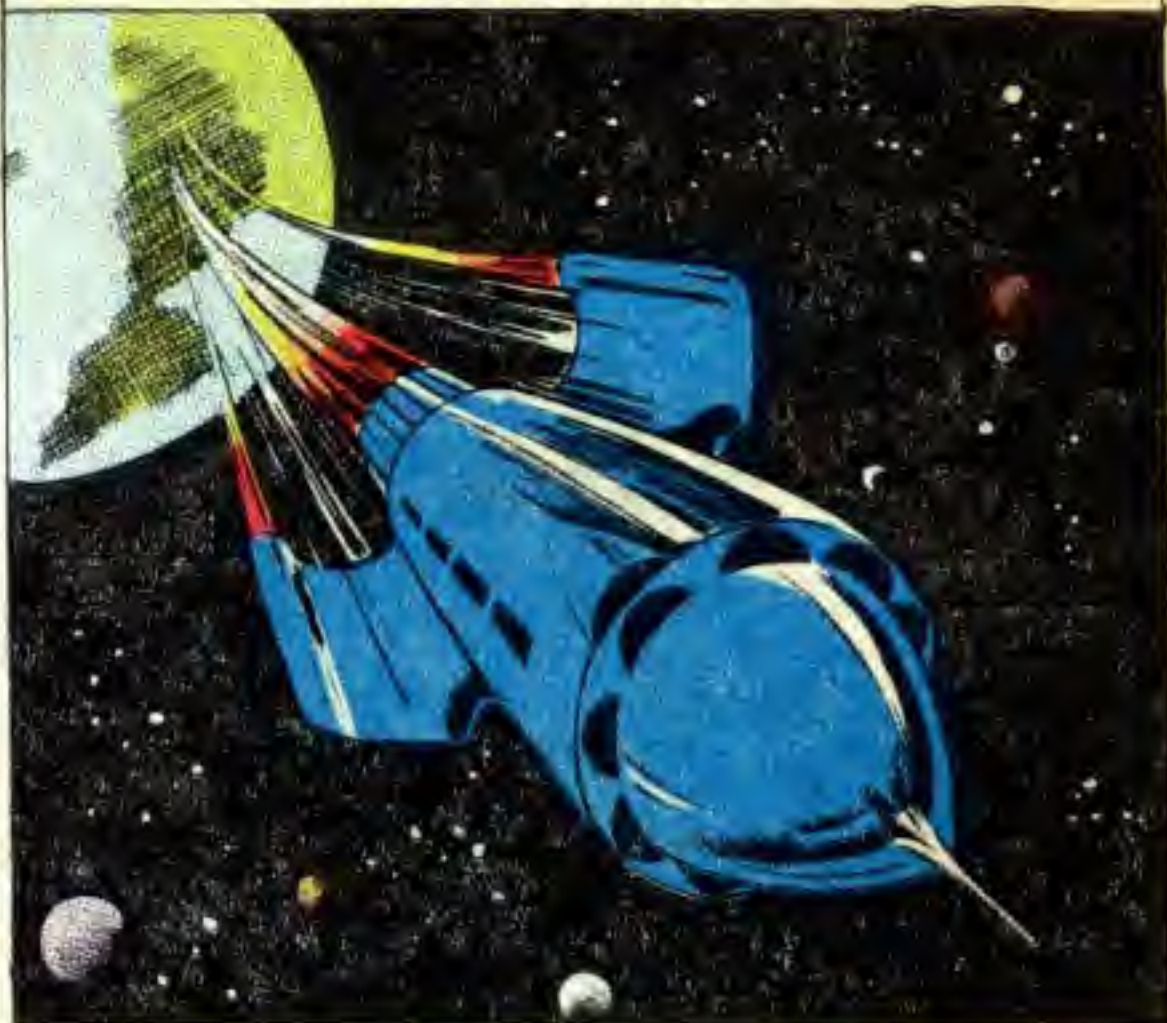
THE HUGE ROCKET'S LAUNCHING WAS BY MODIFIED ATOMIC BLAST! A TERRIFIC DETONATION -- AND IT SURGED UPWARD --



AND INSIDE, THE EFFECT WAS TERRIFIC --



NOW THE EARTH WAS LEFT FAR BEHIND AND SPACE WAS INVADED! AT ROARING SPEED, THE TRACKLESS MILES FELL AWAY --



AND INSIDE THE BIG PROJECTILE, THE SCIENTISTS GRAVELY DISCUSSED THEIR SPECIALTIES --

THERE'LL BE MUCH TO DO ON THE MOON FOR A PHYSICIST LIKE MYSELF-- THE MEASUREMENT OF COSMIC RAYS--

AS A CHEMIST, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE MANY TESTS! AND YOU, ADAMS, AS A GEOLOGIST--

YOU'RE FORGETTING **ME**, GENTLEMEN! I'M A **BOTANIST!**



I HAVE PLANS FOR CONSIDERABLE BOTANIC RESEARCH --GOING INTO EVERY PHASE--

BUT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND! THERE'S NO VEGETATION ON THE MOON!

AHEM, BRADLEY! -- **THE PIANO!**



♪♪♪ DOWN BY THE-EEE O-OLD MILL-LL STR-REE-AM-- ♪♪

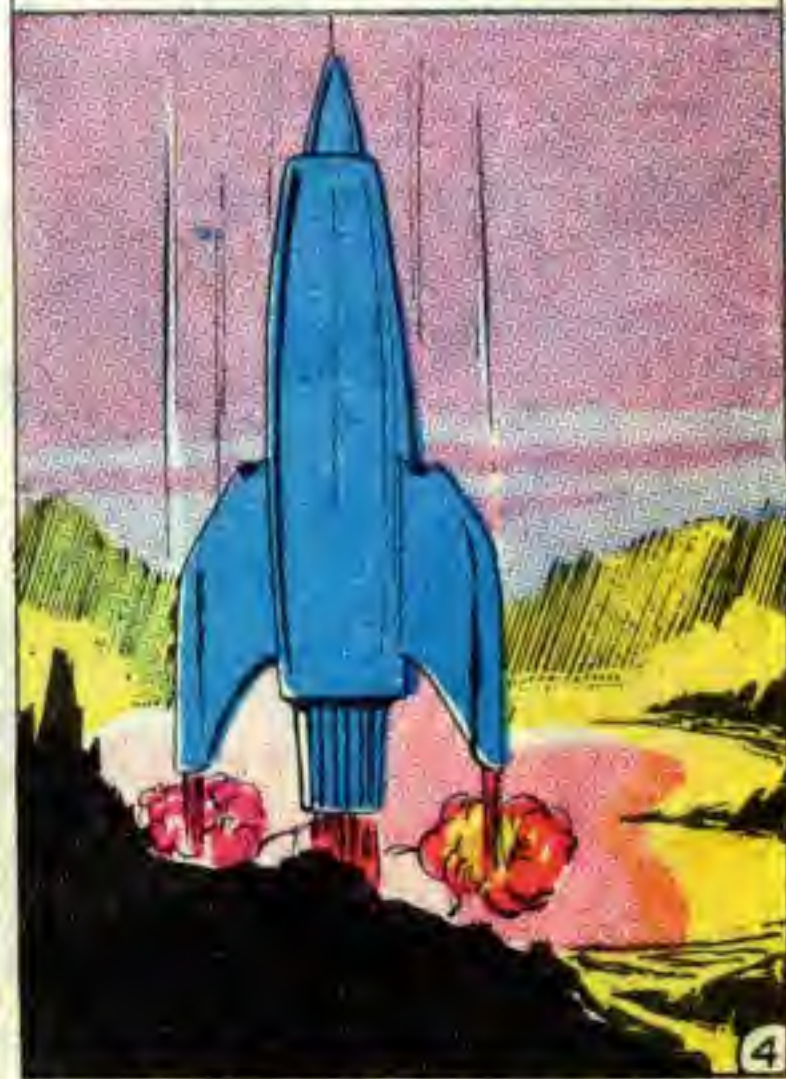
THE GREAT SCIENTIST, HUH? YOU'D EVEN BE A FLOP IN VAUDEVILLE!



MEANWHILE, THEY MOVED CLOSER TO THE MOON-- CLOSER AND CLOSER--



AND FINALLY-- **LANDING** --



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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The Magic
MATE METER



tells all

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FIND YOUR DREAM GIRL!

Spin The Wheel
FIND YOUR DREAM MAN!

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LOVE Here!

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WARILY, THEY EMERGED... INTO A COLD, BLEAK WORLD...



THE SCIENTISTS GOT BUSY, EACH ON HIS OWN INVESTIGATIONS -- ALL EXCEPT DON, WHO WAS GIVEN OTHER WORK TO DO! BUT FINALLY, HE REVOLTED --

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS ABOUT BOTANIC EXPLORATION ON THE MOON, WHERE THERE'S NO PLANT LIFE! AFTER ALL, WE DID TAKE YOU ALONG, AND THAT WAS THE IDEA, WASN'T IT?

IT WAS NOT! I MAY BE YOUNG, BUT I'M JUST AS MUCH A SCIENTIST AS THE OTHERS! NOW I'M GOING OUT ON MY OWN INVESTIGATIONS -- BOTANIC ONES, AND YOU CAN LAUGH ALL YOU WANT!



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

OH, MAYBE I'M GOING TO WRITE A STORY ABOUT WHAT A BOTANIST DOES ON THE MOON -- A COMIC STORY!

ON AND ON THEY WENT, WITH DON DETERMINED TO TIRE HER OUT! BUT THEN, SUDDENLY -- A STRANGE FIND!

SO YOU'VE FOUND A ROCK! -- CONGRATULATIONS!

ROCK, NOTHING! THIS IS THE REMNANTS OF A TREE -- PETRIIFIED! YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS? THE MOON WAS PROBABLY ONCE PART OF SOME PLANET -- UNTIL IT BROKE AWAY, SHOT THROUGH SPACE AND WAS TRAPPED IN THE EARTH'S FORCE AS AN ENDLESSLY TURNING SATELLITE!

AND THERE ARE OTHER STUMPS, GOING BACK TOWARDS THAT GIGANTIC MOUNTAIN! I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M GOING TO INVESTIGATE THEM!

I'LL COME ALONG! ANYTHING FOR A LAUGH, YOU KNOW!



ODDLY ENOUGH, THE NEARER THEY CAME TO THE MOUNTAIN, THE LARGER AND MORE PERFECT THE FOSSILIZED TREES BECAME --

SAY, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THESE TREES! THEY'RE -- DIFFERENT! I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON WHAT IT IS, BUT --

THERE'S A BIGGER ONE ON THAT RIVER BANK! SHALL WE HAVE A LOOK AT IT?



FUNNY... THESE HOLES LOOK ALMOST LIKE EYES! GUESS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SOME TYPE OF PLANT DISEASE --

MAYBE WE'D BETTER GET BACK FROM THE RIVER BANK! I CAN FEEL A SORT OF TREMOR UNDER US!



TOD LATE!



IN A MOMENT THEY WERE IN THE GRIP OF THE CURRENT -- SWEEPED BENEATH A LEDGE AND INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE MOUNTAIN --



THEY EMERGED INTO A HUGE CAVERN THAT SEEMED LIKE AN UNDERGROUND WORLD --



WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW -- WE CAN BREATHE WITHOUT OUR HELMETS DOWN HERE! THERE'S AN ATMOSPHERE --

AND VEGETATION -- GROWING THINGS -- **ALIVE!**



ODD VEGETATION -- STRANGE ANIMALS, THE LIKE OF WHICH THEY'D NEVER SEEN --

THESE THINGS ARE FASCINATING! BUT I CAN'T GET THOSE **TREES** OUT OF MY MIND! GUESS THEY'RE COMPLETELY EXTINCT, OF COURSE -- I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THEM IN HERE, EVEN THE REMNANTS OF ONE!

THERE'S ONE, WAY OUT THERE! IT'LL TURN OUT TO BE ANOTHER FOSSIL, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S THE MOST COMPLETE ONE WE'VE SEEN YET!



THAT'S NO FOSSIL! THE THING'S **ALIVE!**



HMMM... THOSE SAME, EYELIKE HOLES...

AND LOOK -- THIS IS A LAUGH! WOULDN'T YOU ALMOST SAY THAT LOOKS LIKE A **MOUTH?**



SUDDENLY ---



NO -- NO -- WE COULDN'T HAVE HEARD WHAT WE THOUGHT! A -- A TREE CAN'T MAKE SOUNDS! AND YET THAT SOUNDED LIKE SOME LIVING PERSON--

SOME.. SOME BOTANISTS BELIEVE THAT CERTAIN SPECIES OF PLANT LIFE MIGHT ACTUALLY MAKE SOUNDS, IF THEY COULD BE MAGNIFIED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY COULD BE HEARD! MAYBE THIS UNKNOWN SPECIES HAS THAT POWER TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT!



IF THAT WERE SO, I COULD UNDERSTAND THE SOUND-- IT'S A GROAN OF PAIN! THE TREE'S BEING CHOKED BY THIS VINE -- AND I'M GOING TO REMOVE IT RIGHT NOW!



THERE! THAT SHOULD LET THE OLD TREE BREATHE AGAIN -- AND SAVE ITS LIFE!



KNOW SOMETHING, DON? YOU'RE A NICE GUY--AND YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF, TOO! I GUESS I'VE BEEN PRETTY MUCH OF A SMART ALECK WITH YOU -- BUT THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HURT MY FEELINGS THE FIRST TIME WE MET! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

SURE THING, LEONA! I'VE BEEN PRETTY MUCH OF A STUFFED SHIRT ABOUT YOU, TOO!



THEY WERE SO ENGROSSED THAT THEY DIDN'T NOTE THE APPROACH OF A DEADLY MENACE! AND THEIR FIRST WARNING OF DANGER CAME FROM-- THE STRANGE OLD TREE!



IT WAS A HUGE, DINOSAUR-LIKE BEAST--
CHARGING DOWN UPON THEM--

QUICK, LEONA--
RUN!

GRUMFF!



ALREADY, THE ANIMAL WAS CLOSE! IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN ALL UP WITH THEM-- BUT AS IT PASSED THE TREE--

GARR-RRRR!



THE TREE'S
GOT IT-- IT
CAGED IT IN
WITH ITS
BOUGHS!

IT WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD A
MONSTER LIKE THAT FOR LONG!
LET'S HEAD FOR THE RIVER THAT
BROUGHT US INTO THIS PLACE--
MAYBE WE CAN ESCAPE
THAT WAY!



ARRR-RRROWW!

SNAP!



THE UNDERGROUND CURRENT AGAINST THEM WAS
SWIFT -- BUT THEY WERE STRONG SWIMMERS--

LUCKY... I PICKED UP OUR
SPACE HELMETS WHERE WE
LEFT THEM--



FINALLY -- THEY WON THROUGH TO THE OUTSIDE --

WE MADE
IT, KID!

THANK
HEAVENS!



BACK AT THE GIANT ROCKET --

SO YOU'RE BACK, EH? THAT
WAS SOME LENGTH OF TIME
YOU WERE GONE! I CAN
JUST IMAGINE THE GREAT
BOTANIC FINDS YOU
MUST HAVE MADE!

BUT I DID!

I FOUND A
TREE THAT WAS ALMOST
HUMAN -- THAT COULD
SEE, TALK -- WHY, IT
COULD EVEN FEEL
GRATITUDE! I THINK IT
WAS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS
KIND LEFT -- THE LAST OF THE
TREE PEOPLE!



THAT'LL BE ENOUGH
OF THAT NONSENSE!
YOU OUGHT TO BE
ASHAMED OF YOUR-
SELF, TELLING SUCH
RIDICULOUS, OUT-
LANDISH **LIES!**

BUT IT'S
TRUE! I CAN
PROVE IT!
NOT ONLY WILL
LEONA SWEAR
TO IT, BUT I
CAN EVEN TAKE
YOU THERE,
SHOW IT
TO YOU --

NEVER MIND,
DON! I'M
AFRAID
NOBODY'LL
EVER
BELIEVE IT --
NOT EVEN ENOUGH
TO INVESTIGATE
WHETHER OR
NOT IT'S TRUE!



AND SO -- THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY BEGAN --



WELL -- DON RETURNED TO HIS JOB AT THE PLANT
LIFE FOUNDATION! SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE
CALLED ON OLD PROFESSOR LEWIS --

SO IT'S **YOU** AGAIN, EH,
BRADLEY? TELL ME, DID YOU
BRING BACK ANYTHING FROM
THE MOON TO MAKE YOU
FAMOUS?

MAYBE I DIDN'T,
PROFESSOR --



-- BUT I SURE BROUGHT BACK SOMETHING
TO MAKE ME **HAPPY!** MEET MY
WIFE!



The
End. 9

Get Rid of UGLY PIMPLES this new easy way!

Amazing new medicated lotion developed by a doctor works wonders by clearing up complexion in one week or less!

DON'T let a bad complexion ruin romance, spoil your fun, cause you to be embarrassed, shy or ashamed. If you suffer from acne, the common external cause of pimples among young people, try this wonderfully effective medicated lotion that was developed by a practicing physician to clear up his own teen ager's complexion after other methods had failed. It has produced astonishing results for many thousands of others. It is **GUARANTEED** to help you or it won't cost you a single cent!

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Keraplex is **GUARANTEED** to clear up your skin troubles or there will be **NO COST** to you whatsoever. If yours happens to be the **ONE** extra-stubborn case out of seven which Keraplex cannot help in one short week, it will cost you nothing to have tried it. Keraplex is sent to you with that simple, positive **GUARANTEE**!

SEND NO MONEY

You need send no money with the coupon below. When postman delivers your Keraplex lotion (in plain wrapper marked "Personal"), deposit with him only the modest price indicated below, plus a few cents postage. Then use your Keraplex morning and night for a full week, following the simple directions which will be enclosed.

If you do not **SEE RESULTS** that delight you—if you are not fully convinced that Keraplex **IS** clearing up your complexion—just return the empty bottle or unused portion and the purchase price will be refunded in full. Don't delay a single day. The longer you let your skin troubles go, the more difficult it will be to clear them up and get your complexion back to a healthy, clear, unblemished condition! Clip and mail the coupon **TODAY**. Underwood Laboratories, Inc., Stratford, Conn.



BEFORE

This young man suffered from a severe case of acne for years and tried all the usual "remedies" without success.



AFTER

Same young man after using **KERAPLEX** twice a day for just one week. Notice the decided improvement—pimples completely gone!



BEFORE

Note more than a dozen blemishes on just one side of this girl's face before **KERAPLEX** was applied.



AFTER

Same girl had used **KERAPLEX** twice a day for only 5 days when above photo was taken. Note the amazing improvement.

WHAT USERS SAY:

"I was suffering from a severe case of acne... and with only 4 days' treatment with Keraplex... was completely relieved."—P. S.

"I have been completely satisfied with your lotion to help clear up the pimples on my face."—K. W.

"I have used Keraplex and for the first time in my life my pimples are clearing up in good shape. I can't thank you enough!"—E. S.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

UNDERWOOD LABORATORIES, Inc., Dept. 221 STRATFORD, CONN.

Yes! I want to try Keraplex **ON APPROVAL**. Send size checked below in plain wrapper marked "personal." When it is delivered I will deposit with postman amount indicated below, plus postage. If not delighted with the **RESULTS**, I will return empty bottle within seven days for a full refund of the purchase price.

- ☐ Regular Size, \$1.98
☐ Double Quantity (Two Bottles), \$3.50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ **SAVE POSTAGE.** Check here if you **ENCLOSE** payment, in which case we pay postage. Same money-back Guarantee applies!

Payment must be sent with orders going to A.P.O.'s, Canada and foreign countries, due to postal rules.

HAND of PROVIDENCE!

STORY:

JONATHAN
BURNS

ART:

LEO
MOREY



CHARLOTTE MELANET, A POOR FRENCH FARM GIRL, WAS BORN IN THE YEAR 1563! NEIGHBORS SHUNNED HER --- SHE WAS A DEAF MUTE AND "QUEER"...

COME INSIDE! SHE'S **STRANGE**... THEY SAY THE **EVIL EYE** GAZED UP-ON HER AT BIRTH!



EVIL EYE? NO...FOR WHEN WOLVES ATTACKED HER HERD, THEY SHRANK BACK AS IF FROM SOME POWER THAT COULD ONLY BE **GOOD**!



WHEN DREAD CHOLERA STRUCK, SHE NURSED THE SICK, NEVER CATCHING THE DISEASE HERSELF...



...AND, AS IF BY SOME STRANGE MAGIC, WHOMEVER SHE TENDED RECOVERED AMAZINGLY!

IN 1581, A TERRIBLE DROUGHT DESTROYED EVERY FARM IN HER PROVINCE! BUT THE ACRES WHICH SHE CULTIVATED REMAINED GREEN AND FERTILE, YIELDING MIRACULOUS CROPS!



THE PEOPLE WHO HAD FEARED AND SHUNNED HER CAME TO LOVE HER...

IT'S AS IF THE **HAND OF PROVIDENCE** IS GUIDING HER...TRYING TO MAKE UP TO HER FOR THE THINGS THAT NATURE CHEATED HER OF!



THE
END!



In this issue, we're chalking up a new first for "Adventures Into The Unknown". A first for us, that is. Beginning as of now, each of our stories will bear the names of both writer and artist. This is in direct response to the requests of our fans, who have repeatedly asked that the people responsible for our efforts be identified. In the future, thus, you'll know just what author was responsible for that yarn you liked so much—or hated, as the case may be. You'll know who the illustrator was who did that wonderful or horrible job—you pick the description! And you can write in expressing your opinions on the work of people whom you'll now know. And remember—we want those opinions, because they'll help us in framing just the sort of magazine which you want! Address your letter to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown", 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. For our part, we'll try to help you to know our staff better. Each month, we'll publish a short profile on someone being published in the current issue. This time, it's Greg Olivetti, a brand new writer for us, and the man responsible for "Last Of The Tree People". Greg looks deceptively young, but he's got quite a career behind him. Taught to fly by a great uncle who was an early ace of World War I, he put his ability to good use over Korea, downing more than his share of enemy planes. After he left the air force, he tried many things—from selling insurance to prospecting for uranium. Nothing seemed to go right for him—as he tells it, he just couldn't keep his mind on the thing at hand. Instead, he would daydream constantly about the adventures that he might run into that day—but they never seemed to materialize. To relieve the monotony of routine, he'd build the adventures in his mind into plots, and they seemed to come easy to him. A friend suggested that he try his hand at writing them down—and out of this came "Last Of The Tree People", a fresh and exciting story that we leaped at. "I guess I put myself into it," says Greg. "You see, one of these days soon, we're going to get a rocket up there on the moon, and I want to be on it! My story was about the sort of things a guy like me might run into up there!" Okay, Greg, here's luck to you—and now let's get down to what some of our readers are saying!

"Dear Editor:—

I've just finished reading the 101st issue of 'Adventures Into The Unknown', and I'd like to congratulate your staff. I've never read better stories. For the future, how about something on spiritualism, in which I firmly believe? A faithful Hawaii fan—

—Carol Kaneshiro, Honolulu, Hawaii"

Glad you like our stories! There are bigger and better ones coming—and we'll try to

follow your suggestion by touching on spiritualism!

"Dear Editor:—

Just read your August issue. Give the writer of 'Missing—One Scientist' a raise—he has talent! To me, that was the best story I have ever read in 'Adventures Into The Unknown'. I also enjoyed 'Journey Into Antiquity', but I didn't care for 'Forgotten Forest'. As a suggestion, I was thinking that if you could sell earlier issues of your magazine for 15c each, I'd order at least six of them. Keep up the good work!

—Bobby Dukas, Somerville, Mass."

We went all out on "Missing—One Scientist!" And we agree that it was one of our top offerings. As far as selling back issues at a higher price goes, we just don't have enough of them—and we'd hate to boost the price to our faithful readers in any event!

"Dear Editor:—

I like all of your stories. They are full of imagination, and show your ability to give the public what it wants. However, I'd like to see more space adventures in your book. How about a suspenseful story of an alien mastermind controlling a planet? And what's happened to Mars, which is supposed to be the strange world? But I did like your story, 'The Head Man'. I've read your competitors, and I figure you could write better and give more about the topic. I don't care about the covers, because you're good at that!

—Stan Starink, Greenwood, Nova Scotia"

We generally run a space adventure story in each issue, Stan. On the whole, we haven't wanted to go much beyond that, for fear of altering the popular character of our magazine, which likes to run the gamut of the entire amazing story field. We're glad that you don't worry about covers, as long as they're good and exciting. Some folks, as you know, object because we don't always stick 100 percent to the story, but we like something socko and different!

"Dear Editor:—

I don't usually buy comics, but when I do, it's almost always a mystery book, and out of all the mystery and science fiction, I choose 'Adventures Into The Unknown'. For the second time, I've read your issue No. 101. It's very good, except for 'Inside The Mountain'. The story was all right, but the first picture of it is out! I think you should stick to the facts. In that picture, a huge metal arm reaches for some men, but

in the story itself there's nothing whatsoever showing or telling anything about it. As I've said before I suggest sticking to the facts. 'Dream World' was another story I didn't care for. I don't think it's as good as some of the others I've seen. That's all for the complaint department—'He Pierced The Unknown' was a masterpiece to me. Another interesting story was 'The Witch Who Wouldn't'.

—Gregory Dudek, Buffalo, N. Y."

Gregory, we wish you'd take more of the attitude expressed by Stan, in the preceding letter. Stan didn't care about the covers departing in subject from the stories they represented, and we don't think it's such a great sin either. We like to give full rein to the imagination. Sometimes both covers and occasional title splashes for stories are merely symbolic of the story, which is what happened in the case you complain about. We're sorry you didn't like "Dream World"—but just between us, we think that you were dead right. That one was a stinkola, and we're sorry for it!

"Dear Editor:—

I enjoy your 'Adventures Into The Unknown' stories very much. In my opinion, the only magazine that comes anywhere in comparison with yours is 'Forbidden Worlds', which is sometimes better. But I would like to punch some people in the nose sometimes. These people who write in nothing but complaints! They only pay 10c for your magazine, which is worth 25c, and they think they can complain, complain, complain. Me, I like your book very much. In the October issue, I especially enjoyed 'The Witch Who Wouldn't'. I didn't care for 'Inside The Mountain' much. 'Dream World', was wonderful. Was there any truth in it, though? 'He Pierced The Unknown' was very good, but I didn't care for the pictures or coloring in it. Please continue the swell work, however—I'm a fan for life!

—Raymond Panovec, Greenwich, Conn."

Well, Raymond! One thing you've got to keep in mind is that some complaints are justified, and when they are, they help us to improve our magazine. You yourself have certain criticisms, after all! And when they are right, they're right—even if we don't agree with you in the matter of "Dream World". In our estimation, we deserve to have our ears burned off about that one! But we have a certain sympathy about that punch in the nose business at times—just read the following letter and you'll see what we mean!

"Dear Editor:—

That's a laugh, calling you an editor—you probably can't even spell the word. And the dopes you call writers are just as bad. I'd be ashamed to turn out the stuff you're putting across on the public. But they deserve it for being fools enough to buy your

stuff. One sure thing you'll never get any more of my money again!

—T. R. Wilaszyk, Van Nuys, Calif."

This is a real case study of a crank letter. We had to clean it up and correct the spelling, of course, as is usually the case with this type of correspondent. Mr. Wilaszyk, we wish that you and people like you would stop sending in your illiterate drivel. We don't want your money—we don't want you as readers, period!

"Dear Editor:—

As an English reader of your great comic, 'Adventures Into The Unknown', I can not praise it enough, for I think it's tops. I am hoping to buy every new issue, and look forward to some really smashing stories! Keep up the good work, and the very best of luck!

—Gerald Barnard, Middle Wallop, England"

We're entranced with your address, Gerald—but not so much so as to forget our manners. Welcome to the ranks of our readers, and we'll do our best to keep your reading hours happy!

"Dear Editor:—

I just love reading amazing comics, especially stories like 'The Witch Who Wouldn't'. That was a wonderful story! All my friends and myself read 'Adventures Into The Unknown'. We have a club called 'The Ones Unknown'. We use 'Adventures Into The Unknown' as our monthly magazine, and everyone loves it.

—Candy Patrick, Summersville, W. Va."

That club sounds just wonderful, Candy. Please—can we join it?

"Dear Editor:—

I've been a loyal fan of 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for a long time, but this is the first time I've ever written. I disagree with the letters of: Peter Dolinger, Kenneth Feld and especially with Michael Lewis. But on the other hand, I do agree with the letters of: Bernice Goetz, Frank Mattson, Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Peer, Abe Stavsky, Sheila Patterson, Eugene J. Buie. The only magazine of your kind that can come within 5 miles of yours is your other magazine, 'Forbidden Worlds'. All the others are far below your level. The stories I've enjoyed most were: 'Doom Foiled', No. 91, 'Missing, One Scientist' and 'Journey Into Antiquity', No. 99, 'He Pierced The Unknown' and 'Inside The Mountain', No. 101, 'The Biggest Thing In The World', No. 98, was a masterpiece of work, as were 'Journey To The Moon' and 'The 13th Juror', No. 95.

Dennis Young, Glendale, N. Y."

This letter business can turn into a sort of battlefield, can't it? So pick your sides now, readers! Thanks for making your preferences known, Dennis—you've got some interesting yarns there!

BEYOND *the* VEIL of TIME

STORY:
KURATO
OSAKI

ART:
OGDEN
WHITNEY

MY EYES ARE
PLAYING TRICKS ON
ME! THIS **CAN'T** BE
HAPPENING! THERE
MUST BE SOME
EXPLANATION!

HE WAS A MAN OF SCIENCE, A DOCTOR AND A SKILLED SURGEON! TO HIS KEEN, ANALYTICAL MIND, CHANCE AND FATE PLAYED NO SIGNIFICANT ROLES IN THE LIVES OF MEN...UNTIL ONE EVENTFUL EVENING, WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED BY EVENTS TOO SHOCKING TO BELIEVE, YET TOO REALISTIC TO REJECT...

LATE ONE AFTERNOON, IN THE SURGERY ROOM OF A MODERN HOSPITAL...

A MOST DIFFICULT
PROCEDURE, GENTLEMEN,
BUT OUR PATIENT IS
OVER THE WORST
OF IT NOW!

THANKS TO YOU,
DOCTOR WHITNEY!
IT WAS A BRILLIANT
PIECE OF SURGERY!

MOMENTS LATER...

YOU LOOK
WORN OUT, DOCTOR!
YOU CAN DO WITH A
REST YOURSELF!

THOSE ARE MY PLANS
EXACTLY! I'M VISITING AN
OLD FRIEND IN THE
COUNTRY! MARTIN AND
I WILL ARGUE LIKE TWO
OLD FOOLS, BUT I'LL
ENJOY EVERY MINUTE
OF IT!

AND SO THAT EVENING, IN THE COUNTRY HOME OF AVERILL MARTIN, CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM OF ANCIENT CULTURE, THE TWO OLD FRIENDS ENGAGED IN ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE TOPICS...

BUT I TELL YOU, WHITNEY, FATE AND CHANCE PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN OUR LIVES THAN YOU'RE WILLING TO ADMIT! EVEN THE ANCIENTS STRESSED IT! TAKE THIS OLD EGYPTIAN INCENSE BURNER, REPUTED TO HAVE BELONGED TO A MAGICIAN CALLED HAKIM!



IT GOES BACK TO ALMOST 2,000 YEARS B.C., AND THE INCENSE WAS BURNED AS A PEACE OFFERING TO THE SPIRITS OF FATE AND CHANCE! YOU SEE, THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS WERE GREAT BELIEVERS IN FATE! EVEN THIS MOMENT, OUR BEING TOGETHER IN THIS HOUSE, WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT TO THEM...**PREDETERMINED!**



AND TO THAT I SAY **NONSENSE!** THE MOMENT MANKIND PLACED LESS STRESS ON BOTH FATE AND CHANCE, THAT'S THE MOMENT WE BEGAN TO GROW UP! FACTS ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS UPON WHICH MAN'S PROGRESS HAS BEEN BUILT, MARTIN...YOU'LL NEVER PROVE OTHERWISE!

PERHAPS NOT, WHITNEY...



ANYWAY, TAKE THIS AS A GIFT! SOMETHING TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR VISIT!

THANKS, MARTIN! IT IS PRETTY! I'LL FILL IT WITH LEAD AND USE IT FOR A PAPER-WEIGHT!



LATER THAT EVENING, IN THE GUEST ROOM, AS DOCTOR WHITNEY EXAMINED HIS GIFT, HE WAS SURPRISED TO DISCOVER A SMALL PIECE OF INCENSE IN THE BURNER'S BASE...

CAN'T IMAGINE HOW IT COULD HAVE LASTED ALL THESE YEARS! I WONDER IF IT WILL STILL BURN...



TO HIS SURPRISE, THE INCENSE TOOK HOLD! SLOWLY THE SMOKE WAFTED UPWARDS...

POOR OLD MARTIN AND HIS ROMANTIC NOTIONS! I SHOULD TAKE HIM INTO SURGERY SOMEDAY! MAYBE THEN HE'D REALIZE THAT FACTS AND SKILL ARE WHAT REALLY COUNT --- THAT FATE AND CHANCE HAVE NO MORE SUBSTANCE THAN THE SMOKE FROM THAT INCENSE!



BUT AS THE MOMENTS PASSED AND THE SMOKE BECAME THICKER...

I SEEM TO BE GETTING DROWSY! --- THIS SMOKE...KEEPS GETTING THICKER! CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN...TIRED... REALLY TIRED...



SLEEP FOLLOWED, A SLEEP FILLED WITH STRANGE, MISTY DREAMS... AND THEN SUDDENLY HE WAS BEING AWAKENED AND A VOICE BOOMED CLOSE TO HIS EAR...

AWAKE! TIME IS SHORT! YOU ARE NEEDED... AWAKE!

W...WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DOES THE ROOM KEEP SPINNING SO...



AND WHEN HIS VISION CLEARED...

W...WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN THIS ROOM?

I AM **HAKIM**, TEACHER AND WORKER-OF WONDERS TO HIS ROYAL PERSON, THE GREAT AND ALL POWERFUL **AKIM-ANHEMET**, RULER OF THE **NILE**! I HAVE COME A LONG WAY, BEYOND THE VEIL OF TIME, TO REACH THIS PREDESTINED MOMENT!



PREDESTINED MOMENT... B--BEYOND THE VEIL OF TIME...

THOSE WERE MY WORDS, AND THROUGH THIS BURNER AND THE SMOKE I HAVE DISSOLVED THE CENTURIES THAT SPAN YOUR WORLD AND THE ONE I COME FROM! WHY I HAVE SO APPEARED IS BECAUSE OF A DESTINY THAT MUST BE FILLED--AND YOU ARE THE INSTRUMENT OF THAT FULFILMENT!



THIS IS ALL SOME KIND OF A JOKE... BUT A BAD ONE! MARTIN MUST BE IN ON IT! Y...YOU'RE PLAYING SOME SORT OF TRICK!

TIME MOVES AND WE MUST ACT! THE JOURNEY MUST BEGIN!



I AM A WORKER-OF-WONDERS, NOT A HEALER OF THE SICK... BUT YOU ARE! THERE IS ONE WHO NEEDS YOU, THE GREAT **AKIM-ANHEMET**! HE HAS BEEN POISONED BY THOSE WHO WOULD RULE IN HIS PLACE! I AM TO BRING YOU TO HIM!

I...I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME!



YOU CANNOT RESIST WHAT FATE DECREES! YOU WILL BRING WHAT TOOLS YOU NEED, THE VIALS OF MEDICINE... YOU WILL NOT RESIST!

N...NO! I WILL NOT RESIST! MY MEDICAL BAG... IT IS IN THE CLOSET! I...I'LL GET IT...



THE MIST THICKENED, AND DOCTOR WHITNEY'S RESISTANCE DISSOLVED BEFORE IT...

I WILL LEAD! YOU WILL FOLLOW!

YES... I WILL FOLLOW...



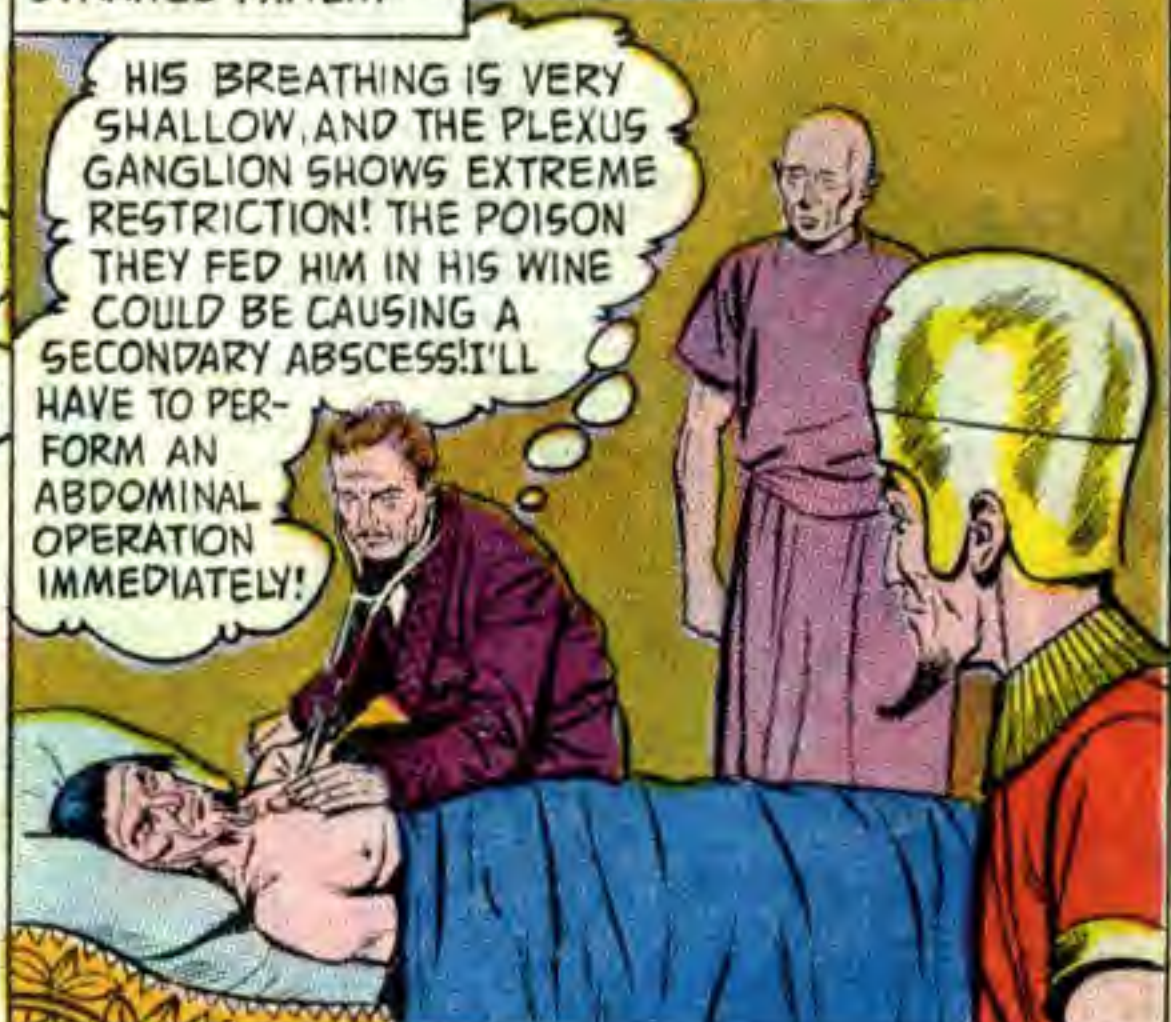
AND AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY---



SOON AFTERWARDS, AS THEY ENTERED THE MAIN COURTYARD OF THE GREAT PALACE---



AND WHEN DOCTOR WHITNEY EXAMINED HIS STRANGE PATIENT---



SWIFTLY, THE SURGEON IN HIM CAME TO THE FORE---



AND AS THE OPERATION WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN---



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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Age _____ Phone _____



THE LONG MINUTES DRAGGED ON! BUT DESPITE THE PRESSURE, THE UNRELENTING CIRCUMSTANCES, DOCTOR WHITNEY'S BRAIN AND SKILLED HANDS WENT ABOUT THEIR TASKS---



AND FINALLY...

THAT DOES IT! IT'S OVER --- DONE WITH---



AND AKIM-
ANHEMET...?



HE WILL SLEEP SOME NOW, BUT HE WILL RECOVER! ON THIS YOU HAVE MY WORD!



GOOD! I AM VERY GRATEFUL! IT IS A MOMENT HISTORY WILL TAKE NOTE OF!



FRANKLY, HISTORY DOESN'T INTEREST ME AT THE MOMENT! WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW! DO I REMAIN A PRISONER OF YOUR WORLD... OF YOUR TIME?

I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP ONE OF YOUR SKILL WITH US ALWAYS, BUT HISTORY WILL NOT PERMIT IT! YOU HAVE SERVED WELL AND HAVE FULFILLED FATE'S DESTINY! YOU WILL NOW RETURN TO YOUR OWN TIME... BUT WE MUST HURRY!



THEN...



HAKIM...
HAKIM!

THE TRAITORS, THE ONES WHO POISONED AKIM-ANHEMET, NOW STORM THE PALACE GATES! THEY HAVE HEARD HOW HE HAS BEEN SAVED! THEY WOULD DESTROY THE HEALER WHO SAVED HIS LIFE!

OUR SOLDIERS WILL DESTROY THESE TRAITORS! ALERT THE PALACE! I GO WITH THE HEALER!



GUIDING THE DOCTOR INTO A STONE-LINED CORRIDOR, HAKIM LED THE WAY---

WHERE NOW?

BACK THROUGH THE VEIL OF TIME! SO LONG AS THE INCENSE BURNS THERE IS NO DANGER, BUT IF YOU FAIL TO REACH YOUR WORLD BEFORE THE INCENSE BURNS OUT... THEN YOU WILL DRIFT FOREVER IN A TIMELESS VOID!



SUDDENLY ANGRY SHOUTS CAME FROM BEHIND...

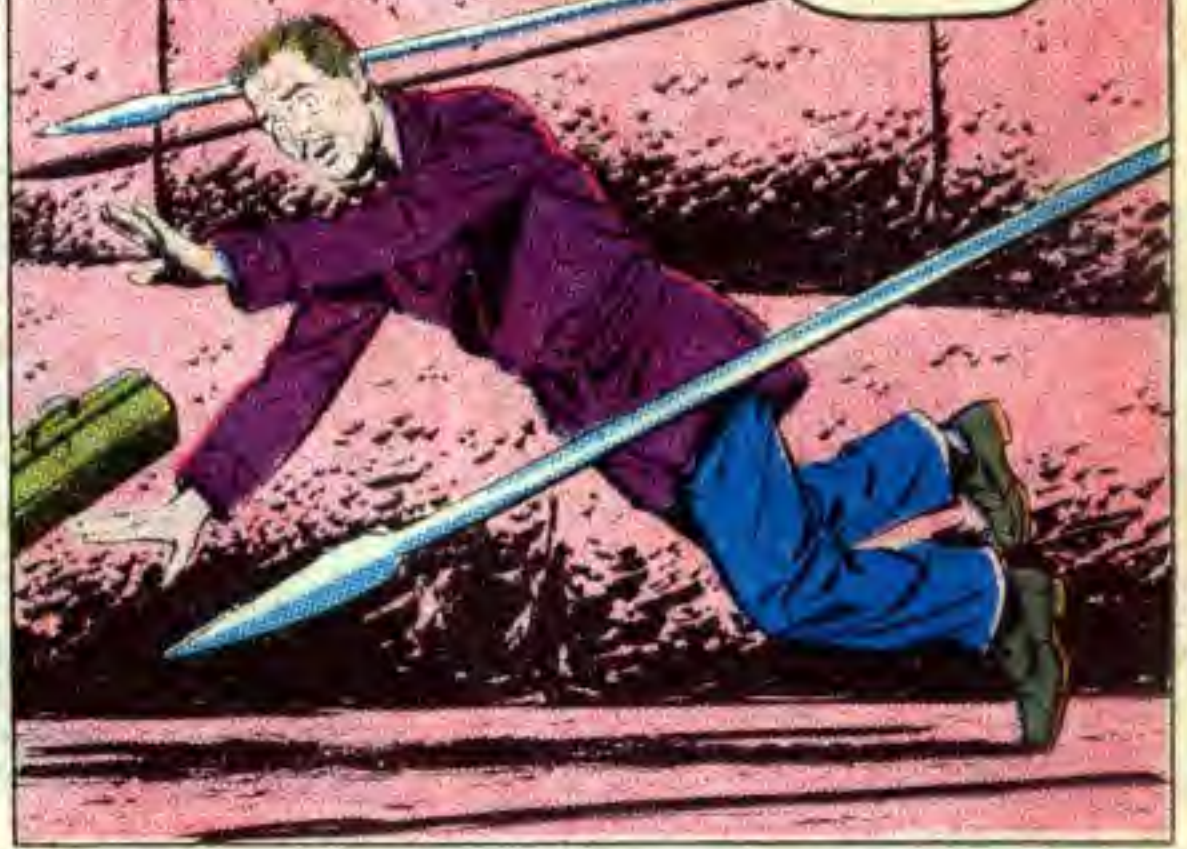
IT'S THE TRAITORS!
THE ONES WHO WOULD
DESTROY YOU! **HURRY!**



OH...HH!

HE
FALLS!

CAPTURE THE
HEALER!



ALL LOOKED HOPELESS, BUT THEN HAKIM INTERVENED,
HIS HANDS ALOFT, HIS VOICE INCANTING STRANGE,
RHYTHMICAL SOUNDS...

YARO BELLAN,
TANOR BEGAM!
YORO CALAMI,
AGOROZAM...



A RUMBLING FILLED THE AIR, FOLLOWED BY A
VIBRATING SENSATION THAT SWELLED TO AN
OMINOUS ROAR...

THE
WALLS...THEY
CRUMBLE!

WE ARE
DOOMED!



THOSE PHRASES
YOU INTONED! THEY
BROUGHT DOWN
THE WALLS...
BUT HOW?

I AM HAKIM, THE WORKER-
OF-WONDERS! YOURS IS THE
SKILL OF HEALING, MINE IS
OF A DIFFERENT NATURE...
ONLY TIME RUNS SHORT...



SEE! THE MIST FORMS...
THERE IS STILL TIME!
IT WILL TAKE YOU BACK!
GO NOW... FOLLOW IT!
ALL WILL GO WELL
HERE WITH ME!



THE MIST COILED ABOUT HIM! HE FELT WEIGHTLESS---LIKE A MOTE, A PARTICLE OF DUST DRIFTING THROUGH AN ENDLESS VOID---



THEN, WITH DRAMATIC SUDDENNESS--

I'M BACK IN MARTIN'S HOUSE, AND THE INCENSE---IT JUST WENT OUT! I MADE IT IN TIME! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND---



BUT WHAT AM I SAYING? CAN I REALLY BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED? COULD THIS INCENSE POSSESS PROPERTIES THAT COULD BREAK DOWN THE VEIL OF TIME? IT DEFIES EVERY FACT KNOWN TO MAN---IT WOULDN'T STAND UP---



I---I'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD---AND THAT TALK WITH MARTIN ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS WORKING OF FATE---PREDESTINATION---I'VE GOT TO PUT THE WHOLE THING OUT OF MY MIND! IT WAS ALL IMAGINATION---HALLUCINATION---



BUT THE NEXT MORNING AT BREAKFAST---

THIS INCENSE BURNER YOU GAVE ME, MARTIN, THE ONE THAT BELONGED TO THIS MAGICIAN CALLED HAKIM! WHATEVER BECAME OF HIM?

HE BECAME QUITE A BIG-SHOT! IT SEEMS THE LOCAL PHARAOH WAS CLOSE TO DEATH AND THEN HAKIM PRODUCED SOME PHYSICIAN WHO SAVED THE OLD BOY'S LIFE---



ACTUALLY, IT WAS A CRUCIAL MOMENT IN HISTORY! IF THIS UNKNOWN PHYSICIAN WASN'T PRODUCED, IF THIS PHARAOH HAD DIED, OUR HISTORY BOOKS MIGHT NOT BE WRITTEN AS THEY ARE TODAY!



THE EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THE THING WENT THE WAY IT DID BECAUSE OF THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF FATE! OF COURSE, YOU WOULDN'T AGREE! YOU'D DEMAND FACTS!

YOU'RE WRONG, MARTIN! YESTERDAY I WOULD HAVE DEMANDED FACTS---BUT NOT TODAY!



The END!

THE GLORY THAT HAD ONCE BEEN MARS HAD LONG SINCE PASSED INTO OBLIVION, AND ALL THAT REMAINED ON THE DEAD, LIFELESS PLANET WAS THE STRANGE, UNEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENON KNOWN AS...

The MARTIAN MIRAGE



AS THE IMAGE SHARPENED IN DETAIL...



IT'S **FADING OUT!** RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, THE **MARTIAN MIRAGE!** FOR 200 YEARS OUR SPACE EXPEDITIONS HAVE WITNESSED THIS SPECTACLE, AND **STILL** IT HAS US GUESSING!



BUT AS THE WEEKS PASSED AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION WENT ABOUT COLLECTING THEIR DATA, RON STUDIED THE STRANGE SIGHT...

IT COMES AND IT GOES! BUT WHERE, WHY, HOW?

GROTZ, THE EXPEDITION LEADER, HAD NOTED HIS INTEREST...

YOU'RE BECOMING **TOO** ENGROSSED WITH THE MIRAGE! I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ENTHUSIASM, THIS BEING YOUR FIRST TRIP TO MARS, BUT...

BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN NEGLECTING MY DUTIES! IT'S JUST THAT I FIND IT SO **FASCINATING!**

I **KNOW** IT ISN'T REAL! TWICE NOW I TRIED TO STEAL UP ON IT! EACH TIME, JUST AS I APPROACHED, IT WOULD FADE... LEAVING ONLY THE DRY, GRITTY SAND! AND STILL... I FIND MYSELF **WONDERING...**

AND I SAY PUT IT OUT OF YOUR THOUGHTS!

THE GREATEST MINDS ON EARTH HAVE GIVEN THESE MIRAGES GREAT THOUGHT! TAKE **THEIR** WORD FOR IT, MY BOY! IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM THE MIRAGES SEEN IN THE DESERTS ON EARTH! A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSION, BUT DECEPTIVE... A THING WITHOUT SUBSTANCE!

TIME AND AGAIN RON WOULD APPROACH THE STRANGE MIRAGE, AND EACH TIME...

THERE IT GOES! THE MOMENT ANYONE APPROACHES... IT BEGINS TO **FADE!**

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR RETURN TO EARTH...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT GROTZ SAYS! THAT MIRAGE IS **MORE** THAN A DECEPTIVE ILLUSION! WE KNOW THAT MARS ONCE HAD A CULTURE, LONG AGO, LONG BEFORE OUR FIRST SPACE SHIPS EVER CAME HERE! PERHAPS IT **HASN'T** DIED... COULD THE **MIRAGE** BE THE ANSWER?

SLEEP PRESSED DOWN UPON HIM... A FACE OF HAUNTING BEAUTY FILLED HIS DREAM...

I AM **OLANNI**, AND IT IS AS YOU THINK! THE MIRAGE IS BUT A SECOND APPEARANCE OF A REALITY THAT **EXISTS!** YOU BELIEVE BEYOND THE SENSE OF SIGHT OR TOUCH, AND THAT MAKES YOU **ONE OF US!**





IT'S **RON!**
HE KNOCKED
ME DOWN
AND MADE
OFF!

THE
YOUNG
IDIOT!
**AFTER
HIM!**



THERE
HE GOES!
UP THAT
SLOPE!

HE'S A SICK
MAN... OUT OF
HIS MIND! WE'VE
GOT TO GET
HIM...



COME BACK, RON!
WE WANT TO HELP YOU!

I DON'T **NEED**
HELP! I'M NOT
GOING BACK!



EITHER YOU
COME BACK OR
WE LEAVE WITH-
OUT YOU! WHAT'S
IT GOING TO
BE?

LOOK!

SOON
NOT A TRACE
REMAINED... ONLY
THE DRIFTING,
ENDLESS SAND...

HE'S
GONE,
GROTZ!
LOST
FOREVER!

NO... NOT
LOST! HE'S
HAPPY... HAPPY
FOREVER... IN
THE **MARTIAN
MIRAGE!**

SLOWLY,
AS IT HAD
ALWAYS DONE
IN THE PAST, THE
MIRAGE BEGAN TO
FADE! ONLY THIS
TIME...

HE'S **FADING**
WITH IT!
HE'S PART
OF IT!

THEN HE'S
NOT SICK...
AND IT
WASN'T
A DREAM
HE HAD!

IT'S THE
**MARTIAN
MIRAGE!**
IT'S FORM-
ING ALL
AROUND
HIM!

The
END!

THE LURE OF THE DEEP WAS A CHALLENGE WHICH ONLY THE BRAVE DARED RISK! HERE'S THE THRILLING STORY OF HOW A STRONG MAN FACED THE STRANGE, SILENT WORLD...

BENEATH *the* WAVES

STORY: PIERCE RAND

ART: JOHN R...



THIS STORY REALLY BEGAN THE DAY **MARU** JOINED MY CREW IN THE SOUTH CORAL SEA! MY NAME IS **ED KANE**... I'M A PROFESSIONAL SKIN DIVER...

HE COMES FROM ONE OF THE SMALL ISLANDS IN THE GROUP AND HE DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH... BUT HE LOOKS STRONG ENOUGH TO DO A GOOD DAY'S WORK!

OKAY, CARVER! STICK WITH HIM THE FIRST FEW DAYS WHILE HE'S BREAKING IN!



MARU LEARNED FAST! BEFORE THE WEEK WAS OUT, HE HAD THE FEEL OF THE SHIP...

HE'S DOING **FINE**! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW HIM ANYTHING MORE THAN ONCE, AND HE'S GOT IT DOWN PAT!



WE WERE TRYING TO LOCATE A LIBERTY SHIP SUNK DURING WORLD WAR II! IT REPORTEDLY CONTAINED A VALUABLE CARGO OF TIN--- BUT LOCATING THE SUNKEN VESSEL WASN'T PROVING EASY---

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS AREA A DOZEN TIMES, AND NO LUCK!

I'M PRETTY BUSHED MYSELF! I MUST HAVE MADE A DOZEN DIVES THIS MORNING ALONE!



BUT ACCORDING TO ALL THE INFORMATION I COULD GATHER, THE **LIBERTY BELLE** SHOULD BE IN THIS VICINITY, ON HER SIDE, AND ALONGSIDE A CORAL BED---



IT WAS THEN THAT THE STRANGE THING HAPPENED! MARU, PASSING AT THE MOMENT, GLANCED AT THE SKETCH IN MY HANDS! HE BECAME VERY EXCITED, AND KEPT POINTING OFF TO THE RIGHT---

IT WAS A SILLY HUNCH, BUT I GAVE IN TO IT! SOMEHOW, I FELT THAT MARU WAS TRYING TO DIRECT US---

WHAT'S WITH **HIM**, SKIPPER?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING--- SOMETHING **IMPORTANT!**



WHY FOLLOW ALL THAT GESTURING OF HIS? NEXT THING, YOU'LL BE LISTENING TO FORTUNE TELLERS!

I KNOW IT DOESN'T ADD UP--- BUT THERE'S NO HARM IN IT!



SUDDENLY---

HE'S SIGNALING! STOP THE SHIP!

MINUTES LATER I MADE MY DIVE, AND ALL THE WHILE I COULDN'T HELP FEELING A BIT OF A FOOL---

BUT A MOMENT LATER ALL DOUBT VANISHED, AND MY HEART THUDDED WILDLY AGAINST MY RIBS---

I CAN'T BLAME CARVER FOR SNICKERING! I'VE NEVER FOLLOWED ANYTHING AS WILD AS THIS BEFORE---



THE **LIBERTY BELLE!** THERE SHE IS! MARU WAS **RIGHT!**



FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THINGS CHANGED ABOARD SHIP! MAYBE THERE WASN'T ANY EXPLANATION FOR IT, BUT WHO CARED--- SO LONG AS IT WORKED---

IT'S **UNCANNY**, SKIPPER! HIM WITH HIS EAR PRESSED TO THE DECK---LISTENING FOR **WHAT?**

I DON'T **KNOW**, CARVER! WE KNOW THAT SUPERSONIC INSTRUMENTS CAN SOUND THE DEPTHS ---MAYBE **THAT'S** MARU'S SECRET!



AT MARU'S SIGNAL, I'D CUT THE MOTORS, THEN OVER THE SIDE I'D GO! IT NEVER FAILED TO BRING RESULTS---

THERE SHE IS! EXACTLY AT THE SPOT MARU INDICATED!



THANKS TO MARU, I WAS GETTING RICH FAST! BUT I DIDN'T FORGET THE IMPORTANT ROLE HE PLAYED, AND I GAVE HIM HIS FULL SHARE! IN THE STILTED ENGLISH HE HAD BEGUN TO PICK UP, HE WOULD ALWAYS THANK ME---

I'M THE ONE WHO'S REALLY PLEASED! THE LUCKIEST DAY OF MY LIFE WAS THE DAY **YOU** CAME ABOARD!



BUT NOW I'M AFTER THE **BIGGEST PRIZE OF ALL**--- A JAPANESE SHIP THAT CARRIED A FULL CARGO OF GOLD BEFORE IT WAS SUNK!



I UNROLLED THE SKETCH WHICH SHOWED THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SUNKEN VESSEL! BUT THE SIGHT OF IT BROUGHT A LOOK OF DISMAY TO MARU'S FACE---

WITH HIS LIMITED ENGLISH HE TRIED TO COMMUNICATE, TO EXPRESS WHATEVER IT WAS THAT DISTURBED HIM ---

WHAT'S **WRONG**, MARU? WHY THAT LOOK?

NO GOOD! DO NOT GO---

BOAT---DEEP WATER ---**NO GO!** MARU NO SHOW YOU---

MARU **WILL** SHOW ME!



THIS IS MY SHIP AND YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME! WHAT I TELL MARU TO DO, MARU **WILL** DO! WE'LL GO AFTER THIS SHIP FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, AND YOU'LL POINT OUT ITS EXACT LOCATION, SEE?



EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING---

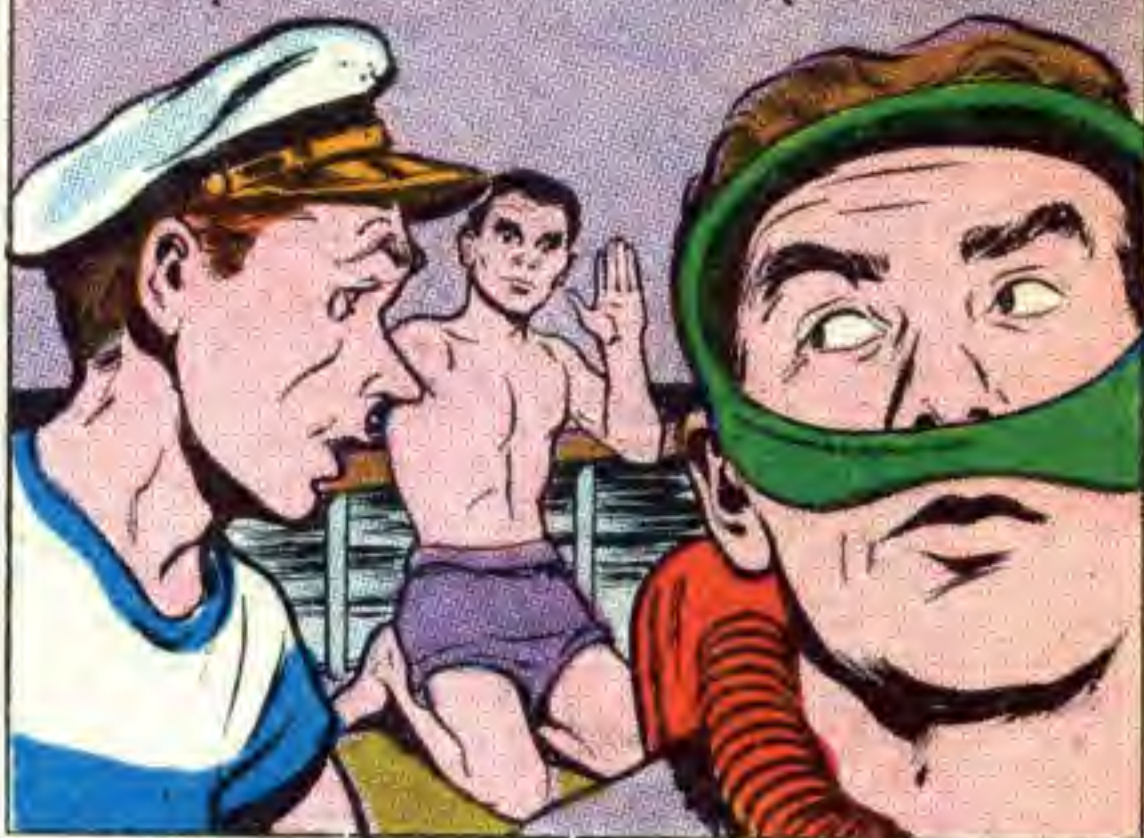
WHAT'S WITH MARU, SKIPPER? HE'S BEEN BALKY EVER SINCE WE STARTED OUT!

DON'T WORRY, CARVER! HE'LL COME THROUGH!



LOOK! HE'S GIVING THE SIGNAL!

THIS IS IT! CUT THE ENGINES! I'M GOING OVER!



IT WAS A DEEP DIVE, ONE OF THE DEEPEST I WAS EVER CALLED UPON TO MAKE! STRANGE LIGHTS SEEMED TO GLOW OUT OF THE FITFUL DARKNESS AND I HAD THE FEELING OF HAVING TRESPASSED INTO A WORLD I SHOULD NEVER HAVE ENTERED---



DOWN, EVER DOWN I WENT INTO THE MURKY, GREEN DEPTHS! AND THEN, FAR BELOW ME, CAME THE FAINT GLIMMER THAT BROUGHT SURGING HOPE---



MINUTES LATER I HAD MADE THE SLANTED DECK! I WAS ANXIOUS TO LOCATE THE MAIN HOLD, BUT CRUMBLING REMAINS OF THE RUSTING SUPER-STRUCTURE SLOWED ME DOWN---



THEN, WITHOUT WARNING---

FALLING WRECKAGE---I--- I CAN'T HOLD IT UP! IT'S FORCING ME BACK---



MY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WAS STILL IN OPERATION, BUT THERE WASN'T A MAN IN MY CREW CAPABLE OF MAKING AS DEEP A DIVE AS THIS---

IT'S THE **SKIPPER**! HE'S PINNED DOWN ON THE WRECK ---OXYGEN SUPPLY ALMOST GONE!



IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT MARU DIVED...

HEY! WHAT'S WITH HIM?

THE FOOL! HE'S GONE PLUMB LOCO!



WHAT I SAW I COULDN'T BELIEVE! COMING TOWARD ME, SLICING HIS WAY THROUGH THE GREEN VEIL WAS MARU...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE COULD DIVE THIS FAR... WITHOUT GEAR... WITHOUT OXYGEN...



BUT STILL THE PROOF WAS THERE, TAKING PLACE RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES! WITHIN SECONDS, MARU HAD RELEASED ME FROM MY PRISON...



Then THE STRANGEST THING HAPPENED! AS I STARTED FOR THE SURFACE, MARU CONTINUED HIS DOWNWARD PLUNGE! AND THEN SOMETHING CAME FLOATING UP FROM BELOW... SOMETHING SOFT AND RUBBERY TO THE TOUCH...

MARU'S FACE! NO... IT CAN'T BE...



AND THE BODY... THAT TURNED AND WAVED! IT WAS BELOW ME, VAGUE AND INDISTINCT! IN ANOTHER MOMENT, I WAS NEVER TO SEE IT AGAIN...

WHAT WAS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHERE WILL IT GO?



THE FALSE FACE WAS STILL IN MY HAND WHEN I CLIMBED ABOARD! IT WAS A DIFFICULT STORY TO TELL... AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT ONE TO BELIEVE...

AND YOU MEAN THIS WAS MARU? YOU THINK HE WAS SOME FORM OF LIFE FROM UNDER THE SURFACE?

WHY NOT? IF WE'RE TRYING TO EXPLORE THEIR WORLD BELOW... WHY WOULDN'T THEY WANT TO EXPLORE OURS?



I GUESS THIS EXPLAINS HOW HE KNEW ALL ABOUT THOSE UNDERWATER WRECKS! WHEREVER YOU ARE, MARU... WHATEVER YOU ARE... THANKS!



The END!

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